

**Golf Commission Meeting  
September 22, 2008  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tom Galla, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Sue Casey; Ron Dray; Don Espach; George Furkiotis; Bruce Gerstman; Jim Steidlmayer

**Members Absent:** Tony Johnson

Chairman Tom Galla called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**Review and approval of the Minutes**

Review and approval of the Minutes of August 25, 2008... There was a motion made by Mr. Steidlmayer seconded by Mr. Gerstman to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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**Audience Participation**

- None

Mr. Galla congratulated Bobby Brown and ATK Golf Services, Inc. on the approval of its contract by the Trumbull Town Council for Mr. Brown to assume the position of General Manager for the Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

**General Manager Report** (Bobby Brown)

**Golf Operations:**

- August rounds: Knolls, 7,065; up 12.36% from 2007; Glen, 3,435, up 15.35%; total Income, \$354,540.12, up 16.89%
- Working to improve phone message and computer tee time problems.
- Customer satisfaction is high regarding course conditions and pace of play. Very minimal customer complaints received.
- Several small groups, with an average of 28 players, have been booked for the fall per the policy of allowing small groups prior to Memorial Day or after Labor Day.
- September outings: Newtown Rotary (128 players), Knights of Columbus (105 players) and Legal 1031 (32 players)

- Opening discussions with Fore Reservations for possible replacement of Point of Sale System. Will be presented at a future Commission meeting.
- Nine Junior Golf Summer Camps had a total of 169 participants (11 repeats) with eight instructors.

#### **Golf Course:**

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Superintendent (Ed Zenisky); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- Nine part-time greenskeepers (Joe Goodwin, Tom Latham, Lou Coccozza, Fred Main, John Markaj, Bob Hoepfner, Mike Valluzzo, Dan Ebert, Ron Russomano)
- Currently reviewing part-time positions for compliance with Civil Service rules.
- Paving of cart paths is slow with DaVinci Development not responding as anticipated. If progress is not seen by the end of the week, they will be pulled from the job.
- Tashua Glen greens were aerated on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and have healed.
- Tashua Knolls is scheduled for deep tine verti-drain aeration on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Tashua Knolls tees on #8 and #9 were sodded on September 11<sup>th</sup> and are currently closed.
- All tees are scheduled to be aerated and verticut this week.
- Fall maintenance of fairways will begin September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Sandboni was used on the bunkers with moderate success due to wet sand conditions. The Parks Department currently has the equipment back, but Tashua Knolls will try the Sandboni again when conditions improve.
- The Maintenance Barn and surrounding areas are in the process of being cleaned. Phase 1 – the removal of obsolete equipment – is nearly complete.
- The ponds were treated before Labor Day.
- The pond aerators are out for repair. A brief discussion was held as to the cost involved in constantly repairing the aerators. Mr. Brown will do some investigation and report back to the Commission.
- Rocks will be placed on #14 to prevent snowmobilers in the winter. A gate will be constructed to allow access of maintenance vehicles at a cost of \$500.
- The creek by #16 has been cleaned out.

#### **Plant and Facility:**

- The UI has cut down a large shrub at the corner of the Clubhouse. The shrub was too close to an electrical transformer; however, a large hole has been left in the plant scape.
- The spicket for watering the plants is leaking into the basement near the furnaces when turned on. The situation will be investigated
- In regards to providing Licensed Massage Therapist Services, the Town Attorney has referred Mr. Brown to ATK's insurance agent regarding any issues. A potential problem may be handicapped access.

**Food and Beverage:**

- Mr. Fausitini has been issued a letter restating that he must have Commission approval prior to undertaking any significant structural changes.
- Construction has been completed on the waterfall outside the kitchen of the clubhouse.
- Mr. Faustini requested, and was granted, approval to treat the front clubhouse stairway with anti-slip flagstone stamping at his cost.
- It was requested that Mr. Brown speak to Mr. Faustini regarding the cleanliness and odor of the area right outside the kitchen door.

**Policies:**

- The weekend rack will end this Thursday. All players will be advised that booking can now be made seven days in advance online or by phone.
- Morning shotgun starts will begin Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 8:30 AM pending frost delays.
- Mr. Brown recommended several Fall Specials with the anticipated goal of additional income and to remain competitive with other area courses.

Mr. Espach made a motion; seconded by Mr. Evans to institute a Fall Special effective October 24, 2008. The cost for greens fees and a cart for residents would be \$30 and \$45 for non-residents on the Knolls course and will be effective Mondays through Fridays. In addition the cost for greens fees and a cart for residents would be \$35 and \$50 for non-residents on the Knolls course and will be effective on Saturday and Sunday. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Furkiotis made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to institute a Fall Special effective October 21, 2008 for a \$5 off coupon for the Glen course. Motion carried unanimously.

**Director of Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima)**

- Mr. Nagashima reported on the progress of the newly sodded tees on #8 and #9 on the Knolls. He reported that he is very pleased with the condition of the sod and proposed that we open those tees on weekends and close them during the week. Mr. Galla reported that he was thrilled with the condition of the tees despite having some initial reservations as to whether sod would be the best course of action.
- Mr. Nagashima also reported that he would be sodding the front tee of #8 at a cost of approximately \$600.

**Greens Committee (Owen Evans)**

- Mr. Evans proposed that the following tree work be completed:

- Knolls #8 – left side almost to green.
- Knolls #13 – left side part way between tee and green.
- Knolls #14 – left side of cart path in back of black tee.
- Knolls #17 – tree overhanging cart path opposite tee.
- Knolls #17 – trees on left side of cart path before green.
- Knolls #18 – cart path opposite tee.
- Knolls #17 – tree on right from upper tee.
- A discussion was held regarding the practice of pruning/removing trees. The decision was ultimately left up to the discretion of Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima with the general policy being that the recommended guideline is that a tree would be removed or pruned if it blocked a shot from the fairway. If a shot were blocked on the rough, it would not be trimmed.

#### **House Committee (Tony Johnson)**

- None

#### **Executive (Tom Galla)**

- None

#### **Finance (Don Espach)**

- None

#### **Correspondence**

- Mrs. Sandy Cappello of the Ladies Nine Holers thanked the Commission for allowing them to hold their annual Invitational Tournament.
- Isabel and Don Trudeau presented the Commission with a letter outlining some positive and negative concerns of the Tashua Glen from their perspective of the closest house to the course. While they have been pleased to see the number of families and young players having a good time, they have concerns regarding the noise level and some of the dangerous practices being displayed by some golfers. The Commission has instructed Mr. Brown, Mr. Nagashima and Mr. Evans to look into some of the concerns and make changes when feasible.

#### **New Business**

- Mr. Brown recommended that Mr. Jon Janik be approved as the new Tashua PGA Head Professional at Tashua Knolls Golf Course employed by ATK Golf Services, Inc. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Janik has acted as Assistant Golf Professional for ATK for the past four years and prior to that, two years at Sammy's Pro Shop.

Mr. Evans made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlemayer to approve Mr. Jon Janik to the position of Head Golf Professional at Tashua Knolls Golf Course, effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Evans asked Mr. Brown for clarification of the policy for resuming play after a rain delay. Mr. Brown reported that for delays of up to one hour, play is to resume at the point where you left the course. You must remain at the course and be ready when play is resumed. You cannot return to the course later in the day to resume play. For delays longer than one hour, players generally leave the course.

### **Old Business**

- None

A motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM was made by Mrs. Casey; seconded by Mr. Furkiotis. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau  
Golf Commission Clerk